

# From the Upper Chamber



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**Thursday, March 1, 2007**

The twenty-seventh day of the 2007 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**.

Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19<sup>th</sup> stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Senate Bills 262-284, Senate Resolutions 370, 375, 377, 385-388 and 397, House Bills 30, 107, 127, 182, 224, 225, 274, 311, 312, 315-317, 330, 354, 375, 386, 443, 511, 537-539 and 543 and House Resolution 14 were read for the first time and assigned to committees. The clerk of the Secretary then read the reports of standing committees and second readers.

Senator **Williams** moved that the rules be suspended to introduce legislation. The Secretary then read SB 283, which was assigned to committee.

The morning roll call was suspended. Sen. **Robert Brown** of the 26<sup>th</sup> took the rostrum to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. **Brown** introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Rev. **Walter Glover** of Greater Zion Hill Baptist Church in Macon, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

Sen. **Williams** took the well to encourage Senators to work on their legislation during the Senate's upcoming recess.

SR 371-374, 376, 378, 380-384, 389-396 were read and adopted.

Sergeant-at-Arms **Lorenzo Wallace** escorted Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18<sup>th</sup> and his guest to the rostrum. The Secretary read SR 67, which commends President **William Underwood** of Mercer University for his leadership. Sen. **Staton** took the rostrum to introduce Mr. **Underwood**, who then addressed the Senate.

The Senate Local Consent Calendar, consisting of SB 46, 147, 149 and 231, was adopted by a vote of 48 to 0.

The Secretary read SR 263, which urges Congress to provide funding for the commuter rail connecting Athens to Atlanta. Sen. **Don Balfour** of the 9<sup>th</sup> took the well to introduce the resolution.

Sen. **David Adelman** of the 42<sup>nd</sup> took the well to encourage the passage of the resolution.

SR 263 passed by a vote of 47 to 0.

Sergeant-at-Arms **Wallace** escorted Sen. **Brown** and his guests to the rostrum. The Secretary read SR 300, which celebrates the life of music industry pioneer **Phil Walden** of Macon. Sen. **Brown** took the rostrum to speak to the resolution and introduce Mr. **Walden's** brother, **Alan Walden**, who thanked the Senate for their recognition of his brother's accomplishments.

The Secretary read SB 157, which provides for grants to those converting to E-85 gasoline for retail sale. Sen. **Ross Tolleson** of the 20<sup>th</sup> took the well to present the bill and the accompanying Floor Amendment.

The Floor Amendment was adopted by a vote of 33 to 2.

SB 157 passed by substitute by a vote of 50 to 1.

The Senate recognized Sen. **Valencia Seay** of the 34<sup>th</sup> on the occasion of her birthday.

The Secretary read SB 91, which increases the punishment of attempting to elude a pursuing police vehicle. Sen. **Chip Pearson** of the 51<sup>st</sup> took the well to present the Committee Substitute. He yielded to questions from Senators **Steve Henson** of the 41<sup>st</sup>, **Bill Heath** of the 31<sup>st</sup>, **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12<sup>th</sup>, **John Douglas** of the 17<sup>th</sup> and **Joseph Carter** of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee Substitute was adopted by a vote of 28 to 1.

SB 91 passed by substitute by a vote of 50 to 0.

The Secretary read SR 350, which recognizes the Georgia Peach Festival and the 2006 Peach Queens. Sen. **George Hooks** of the 14<sup>th</sup> took the well to speak to the resolution. Sen. **Tolleson** then introduced the Peach Queens to the Senate.

The Secretary read SB 98, which modernizes existing law in regards to the sexual exploitation of children over the Internet, and grants subpoena power to the GBI. Sen. **Bill Hamrick** of the 30<sup>th</sup> took the well to explain the Committee Substitute.

The Committee Substitute was adopted by a vote of 40 to 1.

SB 98 passed by substitute by a vote of 49 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 100, which increases the fine for knowingly manufacturing or selling a false ID. Sen. **Pearson** presented the bill.

Sen. **Chip Rogers** of the 21<sup>st</sup> took the well to present the Floor Amendment.

The Floor Amendment was adopted by a vote of 29 to 3.

The Committee Substitute was adopted as amended by a vote of 30 to 0.

SB 100 passed by substitute by a vote of 52 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 101, which adds language to the code regarding nuisance laws of agricultural facilities. Sen. **Tolleson** took the well to present the bill. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

The Committee Substitute was adopted by a vote of 31 to 0.

SB 101 passed by substitute by a vote of 52 to 0.

Sen. **Jeff Chapman** of the 3<sup>rd</sup> moved to suspend with the rules to introduce legislation. The Secretary then read SR 400, which was assigned to committee.

The Secretary read SB 135, which increases penalties for reproducing, selling or distributing recorded material. Sen. **Hamrick** took the well to present the Committee Substitute.

The Committee Substitute was adopted by a vote of 35 to 0.

SB 135 passed by substitute by a vote of 52 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 173, which gives petroleum pipeline companies the right to acquire property through eminent domain, in order to install additional pipelines next to an existing pipeline. Sen. **Tolleson** presented the bill. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup> and **Vincent Fort** of the 39<sup>th</sup>. Sen. **Tolleson** then spoke to Amendments 1 and 2.

Sen. **John Bulloch** of the 11<sup>th</sup> took the well to present Amendment 1. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Meyer von Bremen**.

Sen. **Hooks** took the well to encourage the passage of both the bill and Amendment 1.

Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup> took the well to speak against the bill. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Fort**.

Sen. **Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup> then moved to table SB 173.

The motion to table failed by a vote of 15 to 36.

Sen. **Douglas** took the well to announce the withdrawal of Amendment 2.

Sen. **Tolleson** took the well to close the discussion of the bill.

Amendment 1 was adopted by a vote of 38 to 3.

The Committee Substitute was adopted as amended by a vote of 38 to 0.

SB 173 passed by substitute by a vote of 43 to 11.

The Secretary read SR 351, which congratulates **Hiram (Joe) Little** on being named a Distinguished Senior Georgian for 2007. Sen. **Horacena Tate** of the 38<sup>th</sup> took the rostrum to introduce Mr. **Little**.

The Secretary read SB 188, which includes parents who provide care through a private agency in the Foster Parents' Bill of Rights. Sen. **Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup> took the well to introduce the bill. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Carter**.

Amendment 1 was adopted by a vote of 33 to 0.

The Committee Substitute was adopted as amended by a vote of 42 to 0.

SB 188 passed by substitute by a vote of 56 to 0.

The Secretary read SR 237, which welcomes the citizens and public officials from Macon and Bibb County to the Capitol in recognition of the 2007 Cherry Blossom Festival and Macon Day. Sens. **Brown** and **Staton** took the rostrum to speak to the resolution.

The Secretary read SB 88, which allows grandparents who are already caring for a grandchild to get legal authority to act on behalf of the child, whose parents are unable to care for them.

Sen. **Renee Unterman** of the 45<sup>th</sup> took the well to speak to the bill and explain the amendment. She yielded to questions from Sens. **Jack Murphy** of the 27<sup>th</sup>, **Heath, Regina Thomas** of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup> and **Nancy Schaefer** of the 50<sup>th</sup>.

Sen. **Emanuel Jones** of the 10<sup>th</sup> took the well to support SB 88.

Sen. **Seay** took the well to urge support of the bill.

The Amendment, which adds language to the bill, was adopted by a vote of 31 to 1.

The Floor Amendment was adopted by a vote of 41 to 0.

SB 88 passed as amended by a vote of 55 to 1.

Sen. **Balfour** asked that the rules be suspended to introduce legislation. The Secretary read SB 289, 290, 292, 293 and SR 404, which were assigned to committees.

The Secretary read SR 279, which looks to change Senate terms from two years to four. Sen. **Douglas** took the well to explain the bill, stating that being in perpetual campaign-mode greatly decreases the time Senators can spend working on legislation. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Preston Smith** of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, **Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup> and **Williams**.

SR 279 was adopted by a vote of 49 to 6.

The Secretary read SB 86, which requires seat belts to be used in pickup trucks. Sen. **Don Thomas** of the 54<sup>th</sup> took the well to present the bill. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Smith, Heath, Steve Henson** of the 41<sup>st</sup>, **Jones, Bulloch** and **Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

Sen. **Murphy** took the well to address the bill and encourage sending the right message to young people regarding vehicle safety.

SB 86 passed by a vote of 45 to 10.

The Secretary read SB 16, which prohibits dog fighting. Sen. **Rogers** took the well to explain the Committee Substitute. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Bulloch**.

The Committee Substitute was adopted by a vote of 36 to 0.

SB 16 passed by substitute by a vote of 54 to 0.

Sen. **Bulloch** moved to suspend with rules to introduce legislation. The Secretary read SB 294-296, which were assigned to committees.

Lt. Gov. **Cagle** recognized Chick-fil-A founder **Truett Cathy** who was seated in the gallery.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Williams** moved that pursuant to HR 473, the Senate stand in recess until 5:00 p.m., then adjourn until 10:00 a.m., Monday, March 19.

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